

# The Compass

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## The Compass, Issue 2 - Forward by Provost Nodine

Arcadia University Honors Program

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# FOREWORD

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*The Compass* is an important testament to the high level of work that students complete. The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) claims that the most important aspect of a liberal education is for students to complete, what AAC&U calls signature work. Signature work is characterized as a major project defined by the student in response to an open assignment. The work is completed by the student with some support or guidance by a faculty member. Projects might include reports of empirical research, library review papers, opinion pieces, creative writing. Each issue of *The Compass* composed of individual students' signature work reflects the wide arena of disciplines and topics in which students publish from the value of forest fires to pottery production in late Hellenistic times. The range of topics and the originality of the work show the value of a liberal education.

The publication of *The Compass* also serves an important role as an exemplar of what AAC&U calls an unscripted problem, a problem that cannot be solved through rote strategies. The selection of work to be published, the editing of that work and the compiling of each edition of *The Compass* is a remarkable example of work on an unscripted problem. Each issue also shows the capacity of student editors to work together on a project. Upon graduation, students will confront a world of unscripted problems and their success in implementation of solutions to unscripted problems will define their contribution to the their career, to our national economy and to our society.

We are proud of *The Compass*, its student editors and student writers, as examples of some of the best work done by students.

Dr. Barbara F. Nodine

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